

1075-1076

1912 Dates: J-BK

England

Mutiny of Norman barons
in England was soon quelled.

1075

Henry IV defeated the Saxons.
Gregory VII issued a decree
against lay investiture,

Henry declared Gregory VII deposed
Gregory VII excommunicated
Henry IV and declared him
deposed.

Papacy Bans lay Investiture

A ban issued by Pope Gregory VII in 1075 on the nomination, or investiture, of bishops and abbots in the Roman church by secular landlords and rulers, or lay patrons, brought the "investiture contest" to a head. The double claim of the Papacy, that ① in all spiritual matters the clergy was superior to the laity, and that ② in temporal affairs the papacy was a monarchy; were now. In the days of the Western Empire there had been no suggestion that the clergy was not

answerable to lay magistrate, even in spiritual matters. Nor was the Roman Church originally a monarchy; the bishop of Rome was one among many and Rome was no greater a see than Antioch, Alexandria, Hippo etc. But the mediævalists swept them away and, through the primacy of the eastern emperor who was officially acknowledged, Rome had grown in self esteem. Gregory VII in which came in the midst of a flurry of reform in the Church against corruption sought to secure for its Clergy, under authority of the papacy, control of an independent monarchical Church. This ambition was a challenge to the Eastern emperor who continued to follow the old system and was denounced by Rome as a schismatic. More important, it was a grafting to the European kings who believed they had inherited the authority of the venerated Roman emperors.

1075

Outbreak of conflict between
emperor Henry II (1056-1106)
and the Papacy

1075

Rebellion of the Norman earls
against William the
Conqueror.